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Iowa State Agricultural College

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THE AURORA.

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"SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE."

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Vol. X.]

Iowa State Agricultural College, July, 1882.

[No. 5.]

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## BUBBLES.

E. P. A.

I saw an urchin with a pipe of clay  
Held in his rosy lips; a rippling brook  
Kissed his bare feet, then singing sped away,  
His cheek was dimpled, mirth was in his look.

The child was blowing bubbles. One by one,  
The tiny globes of rainbow, frail and fair,  
Sailed upward, glittering in the morning sun,  
Trembled and swung upon the morning air;

Then one by one I saw them burst. Some fell  
Upon the stream that gurgled swiftly past,  
Broke, and were gone forever. Balanced well,  
Some stayed a moment, but all burst at last.

I saw them vanish, and I sadly thought,  
With tear-wet eyelid and with quivering lip,  
That such was history—thus frailly wrought,  
Men's lives are bubbles, Fortune blows the pipe.

A drop, a breath—no more—in place and power;  
The crowd that cries to-day, "Long live the King,"  
To-morrow spurns its creature of an hour,  
And lays him low—a scorned and hated thing.

I see how men go up and men go down;  
I see the high and noble sink to shame;  
I see the exile's ban succeed the crown;  
I see vile Slander dog the steps of Fame.

So must it be; the brightest bubbles burst:  
To grasp them is to clutch at empty air.  
Is naught, then, certain? is all good accursed?  
Is this world all? Proclaim it ye who dare!

God's rule abides. We turn and veer about;  
We clasp our idols, and the fall to dust;  
Our faith is weak—we plunge in seas of doubt—  
Yet still there is the rock; and God is just.

## JUNIOR EXHIBITION.

The Junior exhibition of class '83, which took place in the college chapel, Wednesday evening, June 28, proved a very pleasant ending for the term's work. The number of visitors from a distance though not so large as we have seen upon similar occasions, was fair, considering the fact that there was no alumni meeting; the previous evening holding out its additional inducement for graduates and former students to re-visit the college. Classes '76 to '81 inclusive, were all represented. The attendance from the immediate vicinity was large.

For the first time in the history of the institution, the members of the speaking class deserve all the credit attaching to the decoration of the chapel. By their own special request, the entire affair, from the heavy mannilla colored curtain at the rear, completely hiding the usual array of window shutters, alcove and steam pipes from the audience, to the dancing fountains and smilax-covered arches in front, everything was planned and executed by the Junior class. The class motto, "Finis Coronat Opus," appeared in a neat wine-colored festoon upon the background curtain. The total absence of both severity and contradiction in the design, placed it far ahead of many former ones in general effect.

At a trifle before eight o'clock the speakers came upon the platform, led by Miss Aggie West and followed by Professor Wynn and President Welch. After the distribution of the inevitable two kinds of programme, accompanied by the usual uneasiness to all concerned, the audience was hushed to perfect silence by a short, earnest invocation by Prof. Wynn, and the exhibition proper, commenced.

Mr. C. M. Doxsee, of Jones Co., was then introduced by the President as the first speaker, and entertained the audience with a sound, logical production on "Human Littleness."

Man has proven his place in nature by his mental superiority; which has enabled him to subject the forces of nature to his own use. all that he has gained, has been gained from nature through this superiority of mind, and all the praise and extravagant worship that he has received has been only for this, and

from his fellows. Should we but stop and review the animated world as revealed through science we would "observe the similarity of him whom we too willingly praise and over estimate, to the lower creatures that we disparage and ignore. Why then should we join in extravagant praise of a frail and limited being like man?" Mr. Doxsee has a most excellent voice and clothes his thought in plain, strong language.

MUSIC.—A serenade, by Schubert, followed, in which Miss Athern and Mr. McHenry, '81, reminded the audience of other days.

"Disenchantment" by Miss Lottie Estes of Dallas county was next announced:

"Truth was sometimes bitter. A sudden uncovering of stern realities—a rude awakening from pleasant dreams was wont to bring lasting hurts. Nevertheless, disenchantment was the fate of all. An over estimate of weak human nature must always, sooner or later, be leveled down to a true estimate, the tinted vapors rolled away, and reality stand out alone.

The disenchantment of Hamlet was most complete and crushing but it did not vanquish him. Turning away from a world of terrible sin, he bravely accepted the mandates of that 'Divinity that shapes our ends,' and at last found peace and rest beyond the reach of worldly change."

Miss Estes has a strong voice, which, however, is not yet under good control. The oration was spirited and touching throughout, and reflects much credit upon the speaker.

A vocal duett, O'er Shepherd's Pipe and Rustic Dell, was next rendered by Dr. Keigley and Miss Shaw, and well received.

Mr. A. M. Miller, of Polk county, then presented a closely written oration on "Byron," from which we can give but the following brief quotation:

"Byron was ushered into the world at an age when society and morality were almost strangers and was an heir to passions which, like the smouldering ember, needs but the faintest breeze to make it flash \* \* \* He was endowed with a clearness of perception, a vividness of construction and a vigor of execution which made him the most powerful writer of his age. His characters are the

confused and turbulent exemplifications of his own passion \* \* \* He was wronged in his youth, thwarted in love, and abandoned by his countrymen; yet he made music for man; and while we list, entranced by the song, let us not forget the singer."

With perhaps the least perceptible show of displayed art in delivery, Mr. Miller is nevertheless an entertaining and instructive speaker, as all who listened to "Byron" will agree.

Mr. W. D. Wells of Black Hawk county followed, with hardly the most striking but undoubtedly the most finished, effort of the evening.

The subject, "Mind, the Great Reality," was taken as the central thought. The relationship existing between humanity and Divinity was shown to be through mind. "God is mind and mind is God." The study of the mind, though difficult, is necessarily so, but should not be abandoned. The tendency of "our new times" is toward leaving the mystical for that which can be seen and felt; to turn from the climax of all nature and blindly delve in the depths; to almost lose sight of mind in the study of matter. The creations of art are wonderful, but marble only reflects the face and form within the master's mind. The discoveries of science are boundless but we have reached them only through the same channel—mental effort.

Religion, too, is a child of mind, and here the speaker showed, the human and divine have mingled. The divine in nature was then presented in a few well chosen illustrations, closing with a fine tribute to the Great Reality. Mr. Wells speaks very deliberately and has a manner at once pleasing and convincing.

"Madam Roland" was next presented by Miss Minnie Knapp, of Story county.

The large number of admirers which Miss Knapp had already won by previous efforts was in no way diminished by the presentation of "Madam Roland." More for its simplicity and graphic clearness than depth of logic or novelty of thought, we cannot forbear its publication entire. It will be seen on close perusal that the production has many points of high literary merit. The delivery was well in keeping with the thought. Music, instrumental, Puritani,

two pianos, by Misses Goode and Shaw followed, during which, for some unseen cause the fountain commenced a wonderful dance, at times throwing its spray almost to the ceiling and again dying down until nearly hidden behind its margin of brakes and boulders. The music was well received. At its close, the fountain having again found an equilibrium, Mr. E. A. Alexander of Fremont county was introduced. No one, unacquainted with the particulars, could have surmised that Mr. Alexander came before the audience under the most trying circumstances, his state of health for some time previous having been of such a nature as to hardly make it advisable for him to remain at college. The subject, "Soul and State" was treated in a masterly and agreeable style. "In the world's history there has ever existed two fundamental forces. The one, religious, the other political. The one we call soul, the other we call state. The one is fidelity to God, the other is fidelity to man. These two elements so long in opposition are to be reconstructed upon the foundation of universal liberty. Education must make the bond that finally unites them under a common rule. Superstition and tyranny have disappeared from church and nations as men have found the benefits of culture, moral and intellectual, and the great hope of final harmony is wholly entrusted to that agency." The oration is especially to be commended for its independent originality of style in which particular, it was, we think, hardly excelled.

Miss Mary McDonald of Henry county followed with a fine production on "Beauty Reinstated" which, though not as ornate as some, was full of carefully arranged thought. Without analysis we select a few sentences typical of the production.

"In this age so highly scientific and practical we are fast losing sight of the beautiful. We are bending our energies to the investigation of *truth* in all its material forms; seeking to make our lives useful and the world better through the channels opened to us by science, while we heed not the opportunities for accomplishing the same end by means of the fine arts and of poetry \* \* \* The history of nations has

shown that man will not be satisfied with work alone. There is that in his nature which a knowledge of the sciences and the faithful discharge of his duties will never satisfy. This is the field in which beauty may labor \* \* \* By whatever means we may, let us give to beauty the place it ought to occupy. Let us not falsely conclude that truth exists only in science, for in beauty, also, we find the higher truths expressed in language unmistakable. Truth is beauty, beauty is truth. This is all ye know on earth and all ye need to know."

The delivery was well in keeping with the style; the absence of any attempt at the dramatic being quite marked. Miss McDonald has a good voice naturally, and her speaking shows that it has not been left entirely without culture.

Music followed, executed by Miss Athearn, piano, and Mr. Heighton, of Des Moines, cornet. The presentation was certainly perfect and the appreciation of the audience was well expressed by a long and vigorous applause, checked only by the president announcing the next speaker.

Mr. Walter McHenry, of Polk county, did himself much credit in his oration, "The Spirit of doubt."

Doubt has guided reason in the search for truth, has checked fanaticism, encouraged reason, promoted investigation, purified government and elevated religion. Doubters have "blessed humanity and been rewarded with a crown of thorns." Blind faith brought the miseries of the dark ages.—Doubt was dormant, individuality was dead until reason once more gave its light to the world.

Doubt purifies like an avenging fire but has a higher mission than to obliterate. "Though it breaks the images of ignorance, upon the ruin it builds a hope, \* \* pure, grand and elevating, that spans the yawning gulf of eternity and rests beside the throne of God."

In thought, the oration is quite ornate, abounding in sentences, which, though they may want the logical connection displayed by other efforts of the evening, are nevertheless beautiful in themselves. The speaker, displaying in the delivery more of power

than grace—of animation than art—was justly well received.

"High Up or Low Down," by Miss Emily A. Reeve, of Franklin county, came next and proved to be an amusing mixture of sense and satire, which were so well under the control of tone and gesture as to prevent the possibility of being mistaken, the one for the other.

Man learns only by experience. So do nations. Many lessons for the nation's future can be gleaned from her past and present. A few years have brought great changes. "The honest, freedom-loving christian race that gathered around the old fire-place, and roasted onions in the dying embers, is followed by a fretful, ambitious, heedless race who gather 'round the new nickle plated base burner and toast their toes in its cold, cold gleams." Everything has changed, and many strangers have come to us, and we are ruled in part by uneducated votes, and in part by scheming politicians. The boy who used to steal his playmate's dinner has become a national pillar—he is a politician.

The tendencies of our religion are interesting. Polygamy and the want of harmony between other form are dangerous. The amendment, passed only the day before was a promising sign of advance. "From this we conclude that ere the close of our earthly existence, America will have 'gone up.'"

The speaker's style of delivery is in its line, inimitable.

The last speaker of the evening, Mr. Geo. W. Curtis, of Buchanan county, invited our attention to "Irving and his Granada.

"Noble objects have within them grand inspiration." All great thoughts are evolved from some previously unnoticed or half forgotten source. Irving has not beautified marble nor enlivened canvas, but has brought a slumbering nation to life and repeopled her cities. He has evolved history from fiction and blended truth with the fancy of the poet. The fall of Zahara, as depicted by Irving, the feast of the victorious king, the entrance of the miserable captives, the voice of the denouncing prophet, and the fulfillment of the prophesy in the downfall of Granada are rapidly presented and in closing a fine tribute was paid to the gifted author. Mr.

Curtis' production was a very fine one and was deservedly well received.

The beautiful and appropriate quartette "Good Night, Farewell" followed, presented by Misses Henderson, McDonald and Messrs. Andrews, Curtis, with piano accompaniment, and, the audience arising for the benediction of Prof. Wynn, was dismissed for a season of rest and recreation,

In closing we cannot but enter our protest against a previous report of this same exercise. While it is always difficult, if not impossible, in limited space to do such an entertainment justice, it is never necessary to adopt a brevity that implies worthlessness, nor attempt to crush merit by stooping to actual ridicule. That just such an injustice has been done all true friends of the college will not be slow to admit.

The exhibition, as a whole, deserves a high rank for care displayed, both in composition and delivery, and not only the speakers and the class, but the institution which they represented may long look back on the occasion with a feeling of true pleasure.

### MADAME ROLAND.

MINNIE KNAPP.

Towering far above Athens upon the summit of the Acropolis stood the wonderful statue of the Goddess Minerva, the work of the immortal Phidias.

On her left arm she held the extended shield, in token of protection; her right hand firmly grasped the spear, while her eyes looked boldly out toward the Ægean sea glancing defiance to the enemies of Athens.

Centuries later, amid the ruin of an Empire, a fallen hierarchy, a scattered priesthood, broken civil law, anarchy and revolution, a social chaos, another form stood forth, not of marble nor of bronze, but wrought by the Master Sculptor, Madame Roland was the Minerva of France in the hour of her greatest necessities.

Revolution is a word of terror, to be evoked only when necessary to avert the direst calamities, under corrupt and tyrannical kings, brilliant, but profligate courts, the mockery of government, for a century France had been floating toward the vortex of national dissolution, now she hung trembling on the brink of the abyss.

With blanched cheeks her citizens in an undertone whispered, "revolution," then it swelled into a cry prolonged and terrible. The throne tottered and fell; government became disorganized; men made haste to deny their nobility, abandon their heritage and fraternize with the people; the worst elements of society, born in hunger and nurtured in hate and despair, emerged from the slums of the streets to mingle in scenes of crime and gloat over fallen greatness; the demon of anarchy seized the reins of power and France became profligate of her noblest blood; Jacobin fury swept the land.

Condorset, Marat, Danton, Brissot and Robespierre, successive leaders, demanded votive offerings upon the altar of the country, in mockery of liberty. Barere was applauded when he advocated universal extermination. Who shall brave the spirit of this storm and command peace to the troubled waters? Madame Roland was the Napoleon of this period. "Men have the spirit of truth, woman only its passion," says Lamartine. Men study truth as a philosophy, women love it for its beauty and goodness.

A young woman came to Paris, without name, fame, or fortune, but she was a devotee of the philosophy of liberty; her pure and exalted spirit, saw in it the disenthralment of the human race. By the mighty attraction of a common sentiment and sympathy she drew to her humble home the ruling spirits of the revolution and as far as possible impressed upon them her type of nobility.

Cornelia taught the Gracchi liberty; Ayesha girded the sword on Mohammed; Madame Roland gave to this revolution the touch of humanity and the elevation of philosophy. Let the historian pause and contemplate this serious and sublime historical character, this female type of Rousseau and Washington. A tall and supple figure, a modest and becoming demeanor, a carriage which bespoke intrepidity and eyes, which from the depth of their reflection flashed a look passing rapidly from tenderness to energy, a skin marbled with the animation of life and veined by blood which the least impression sent mounting to her cheeks; a tone of voice

which borrowed its vibrations from the deepest fibres of her heart, and was modulated to its finest movements. Her understanding lighted this beautiful form with a flashing intellect; the most profound studies were simple exercises for her powerful mind.

Plutarch, Fenelon, and Tasso poured heroism, virtue and love into the soul of a woman destined to this tripple palpitation of grand impressions.

In the midst of this fire in her soul her reason remained calm and her purity spotless. Madam Roland came to Paris, to inspire a party, found a republic and reign over the destinies of a people.

She hastened to the Assembly, of which her husband was a member, and saw with intense disgust the inferiority of the republican side when contrasted with those accustomed to command, the powerful Mirabeau, the dazzling Cazales, the daring Maury, and the impassive Barnave. From that moment she made it her duty to impress upon the representatives of the people the nobility of action and the dignity of power. In her saloon were gathered the brave band of men who attached themselves to principles, regardless of their success. There the Girondists discussed and plotted—there the republic was born.

Gathered at this club, which determined the destiny of France, weighed the thrones of Europe in the balance, and pondered the grave problems of that age, were those who had devoted their lives thus far to the routine of toil for daily bread. Tell me that men must always grow by the ordinary processes of development. There are times when thought is intense and great opportunities are thrust upon us; when growth is sudden and miraculous; when men from the ordinary walks of life step into positions of eminence and authority and become heroes and statesmen in a day.

There was Verginaud the Mirabeau of his party; with him revolution was a sublime philosophy to ennoble the nation.

Young, handsome, and brilliant he plunged into it for glory and not for power.

There was Isnard the revolutionary impetus personified. His words poured forth like burst of impatience and inspired fury before conviction.

There was Brissot, the leader of his party, and Condorcet its profound philosopher. On the other side of the room was a man, somber and cynical, who listened but rarely spoke, it was Robespierre, the Caesar and the Judas of the republic; but the central figure of the group was Madame Roland—far superior in grace and beauty of person, in high intellectual endowments, in bold and vigorous plans, in comprehensive details, and a wise adjustment of means to an end. Without voice in the assembly, she was still the most potent person in France, and dictated to her party and the republic while she inspired them with her sublime heroism. She first whispered the name republic to the profound amazement of a bewildered people. She dared to seize this hope of safety and twine it with the immortal lillies of France.

To Isnard the republic was a pure fanaticism, to Robespierre an avenue of ambition, to Marat and Danton an excuse for the exercises of power, to Verginaud a vision of glory—to Madame Roland it was her first born and only love. She touched the republic deftly with her fingers as she would stroke the golden hair of her child. She cradled it in her arms—taught it the lessons of liberty and gave to it a portion of her matchless fire and force.

And, when the fury of the revolution had swept over the land and men turned cowards or traitors she stood by her foster child. When she was basely tried and unjustly sentenced, she knew not fear nor weakness, but accepted her death warrant as a title to immortality, and, white robed, ascended the scaffold with tragic composure. A moment she paused before the statue of liberty and exclaimed, "Oh Liberty! Liberty! how many crimes are committed in thy name." The descending steel flashed in the sunlight and Madam Roland, the spirit of the Gironde, the mother of the republic was no more.

Oh, history! reverse the unjust judgment of her times—avenge her memory and crown it with honor.

Oh, liberty! build a spotless monument to her fame and transmit pure and unsullied a noble name to generations yet unborn.

#### AN APOLOGY.

We desire thus publicly to apologize for the mutilated manner in which the article entitled "Change" appeared in last month's *AURORA*. In part, we assume the blame, through careless proof reading, while a part of the responsibility falls upon the printer through carelessness in correcting the proof. It is seldom that such expressions are called for through the columns of the *AURORA*, and while we will always hold it our duty to right all grievances, yet we sincerely hope we may never be called upon to do so again.—Ed.

## SCIENTIFIC.

## GOD IN NATURE.

C. F. S.

Does nature prove the existence of a God? To those who do not question the veracity of the Bible in its undeniable statement of the fact that there is a God, this question has no particular interest, more than any other question which bears on a topic upon which they have founded a definite belief; but there are persons who question the actuality of things which have not furnished them with an ocular demonstration or immediate proof. These persons looking at the dark and misty past through which thought has penetrated with persistent effort, contested on every field, and on every hand, by its great conservative antagonist, faith, look significantly to the present and future, and demand demonstrable facts as a basis for belief. The dark clouds of superstition dispelled by the aggressive force of investigation hover yet in the background of retrospection and send forth their warnings to guide our course in future action; truths revealed have antagonized opinions and opinions are formed in harmony with the evolution of ideas, thus we are living, moving and thinking in an age of doubt, surrounded on every hand by an age of doubters; to such persons, it furnishes us no little gratification to feel, that we can point to the external world and say that underlying all its various phenomena, its mysteries, and its facts which have been accumulated during the long lapse of ages is an intelligent, all-wise, omnipotent and omnipresent Power, whose lineament can be traced in the curves and penciling of the most delicate flower, or along the broken out-line of the jagged cliff towering up in the distant landscape. We do not hesitate to record ourself among the former class of believers; we believe the bible is true; we believe that it is an inspired work, not in the sense of its "capacity to inspire" but of its inspiration in fact. By means of the faculties given us and by the use of which we became cognizant of material and immaterial things we become aware of the two conditions of existence, *matter* and *mind*. The term *matter* is a common by-word, and *mind*

is spoken as though it were a settled question; under these two terms can be placed existence in general. Ask the most enthusiastic skeptic. What is matter? What is mind? If they exist, and he will tell you they do; he will endeavor to point out to you definitely the one and prescribe the limits which shall encompass the other, but do you notice his description of matter, can you rest with this description and say you have a definite notion of it? He has simply given you qualities; it has form, color, hardness, resistance, odor, etc., but what are these? *qualities*, qualities of what? "Aye, there is the rub." We can not think of quality without thinking of it adhering in some thing, and this some thing we call matter for want of a better name, that is, we infer the substance of matter. Now take his definition of mind, what have you? qualities simply, we find ourselves at loss to give any definite notion of substance; either of matter or mind; then is it fair for the skeptic to take these things so readily as unconditional truths, and in the other instance where we have precisely the same conditions and data, repudiate the whole as false? I would like to say to all of this class, do you not know that consistency is the soul of honor, it is the only substantial basis for an unbiased opinion, it is the only security we have on reaching a conclusion that we have found the truth? When you look out on the broad beautiful world before you; when you see the greatness, the grandeur, the sublimity of the whole texture of creation; when you see the myriads of moving, creeping, and crawling animals, each one so admirably constituted in his physical construction to best meet his wants and demands arranged and classified in sympathetic order until the whole animal kingdom is bound together in one great family. When you see the vegetable world, and study its laws of reproduction and regeneration, the protoplasm in its tiny cell moving and turning in its tireless efforts to store up the bread and sustenance of millions of human beings, or build up with patient industry those great monarchs of the forest whose symmetric forms stand the storms of ages, and whose hoary heads droop and fade only to prove the invariable law of



the immortality of all life. When you see a beautiful landscape, that beaming countenance of nature, whose dew-dropped leaf clothes itself in fantastic beauty before the approach of a morning sun, and when you feel yourself drawn toward all this with a feeling of sympathy, a mysterious admiration, and an occult power finds its highest attribute in faith, can you experience all this, there great universal qualities and fail to think they must adhere to something? Can you not see, that something must be infinitely great and powerful? Can you consistently deny the existence of a God? All our knowledge is relative, we know nothing absolute; we can only infer when speculation would take us out of the pale of our own understanding. From qualities we infer matter. From qualities we infer mind. From qualities or attributes we infer a God. The question which first strikes us in making this investigation is this: Does the explanation of the external world require the existence of a God? Psychology says: The mind of man rises to its highest dignity when viewed as the object through which and through which alone his unassisted reason can rise to the knowledge of a God. I think in answering this question of necessity, you virtually settle the whole question, for is it logical to suppose that intelligence could be the result of unintelligence? yet we have the human mind, our own experience tells us of its intelligence. Where did it originate? They tell us the fountain head is a "blind force acting, a blind fate." Again take the simplest object you can see around you, study the laws of existence, see the symmetry, the uniformity and the harmony and attribute this to a blind fate.

In answering this question relative to the existence of Deity by studying the phenomena and the laws of nature, there seems to be one very important relation that of cause and effect. When we find ourselves so constituted as thinking beings that in every other channel of thought we must think of a cause for every effect, all phenomenon demanding a cause and an intelligent cause, how are we going to be consistent with ourselves and deny the conclusions of our own minds? How do we judge a man? What formula do we use when we are trying

to derive his intellectual capacity? There is but one rule and that is by what he has done. We have but to study *Paradise Lost* and Milton towers above the common mind an intellectual giant. Shakespeare, Macaulay and Herbert Spencer will ever be appreciated and known by the products of their genius. When we study a painting or a piece of sculpture, every element of our understanding demands an intelligent cause, and we think of anything as existent by thinking of a cause. If then the works of man stand out as the index of his wisdom and power, what are you going to say of the beauty and symmetry found everywhere in nature? When you see the world, the universe, with its intricacies of law, the infinite number of objects of beauty and complex structure, far out stripping the works of man and which he can not begin to imitate, but sees his feeble efforts pale in insignificance before the display. Are you going to stop here and abandon your theory that every effect must have a cause? Can you for one moment deny the infinity or intelligence of this cause? If you cannot you cannot deny a God in nature.

Here is our recapitulation aside from notion of Deity, everything we know or can think of, comes under the two conditions of existence, mind and matter. Now can we prove absolutely the existence of either of these? We cannot, we only know them by their qualities, the same is true of God, we know him and can prove his existence precisely with the same certainty that we can prove our own, or the existence of any thing. If we know anything the highest portion of our knowledge is of God.

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#### ALL ACTION PRECEDED BY THOUGHT.

J. B. M.

In all psychological investigations one great and fundamental distinction is necessary, and that is a thorough discrimination between the ego and non-ego, between the thinking subject and object of thought.

This distinction is clearly defined between objects in the eternal world and ourselves; but thinking of the mind in connection with the body over which it has direct control, is a far more difficult task. The mind, the

great centre comprehending that which we call intelligence and volition, and which has immediate control over the organisms of the body, that principle in the human being which wills an intelligent act, is more liable to be confounded with the agencies through which it makes its actions manifest.

That the body is under the control of the will is evident. We raise our hand; this seems one of the most simple acts that we are capable of performing, yet the mental modification which brought about that act was quite complex; a desire to raise the hand and a will that such a desire should be realized; a consciousness, an intelligence of a want, and a volition the object of which was the realization of that want. It is evident that two mental acts have been performed: The recognition of a desire, and an act of volition. Consciousness being a necessary condition of thought we have the natural order of causation, intelligence, desire, volition.

Now this does not apply to the hand alone, but to the other organisms of the body as well. A physical act is preceded by a mental one, the mental modifications being of different degrees of intensity will produce corresponding different degrees of manifestation; so we cannot say that the same order is not followed simply because the modification is sometimes so slight as not to attract our attention to the fact of its existence.

Again, in the external world we see forces energizing in a thousand different ways. Nature is the general term including the multiplicity of their workings. Changes taking place in order and harmony attest the systematic workings of these forces. The phenomena from least to greatest testify to the facts of causation. These forces acting harmoniously produce effects which seem to us marvelous,—so beautiful and so strictly in accordance with our conception of intelligence, that we cannot help but wonder at these products of nature as we call them. Even the most simple plant, exceeding in beauty and delicacy of structure anything of man's production, has its own peculiar mode of growth, its regular order of development. Crush it to earth and if

not deprived of life by the act, it will, so far as it has power, struggle on and do what it can to recover its former symmetry. Law and order are manifested in its development; and not in *its* growth alone but in that of every individual which goes to make up the vegetable kingdom. Can order in energizing exist without intelligence? Can forces be directed so as to produce such results without thought? In the human subject we have seen that intelligence and volition precede an action, and, reasoning analogically, how can we help arriving at the conclusion, that before the plant existed the idea existed, before the object the picture of the object. An intelligence, a volition, and then the plant. Even the plants by their selection and assimilation of food, and their structure, testify to a prescribed mode of growth and development; to an intelligence so infinite that the human mind cannot conceive of its attributes.

Turning our attention for a moment to the consideration of the plants and their movements, we find that laws not only govern their motions, but really are necessary conditions to their existence. The laws of gravity and circular motion establish the distances between the sun and the planets which revolve around it, and that, too, with such a certainty that celestial phenomena are foretold with wonderful accuracy. The Nebular Hypothesis founded on the laws of motion, sets forth in a plausible manner, the mode of the formation of the earth, or, rather, the condition in which particles of matter were left, that other forces might act upon them. Yet have we a right to suppose that these laws existed before the existence of an idea of them? An intelligence is here manifested, a volition declared.

The human mind has given it certain fundamental ideas the converse of which it is unable to think true. These native ideas include in their number a conception of some universal cause; you may call it what you will, whether it be the manifestations of nature through her blind forces,—an intelligent cause or an Infinite Power; the human mind cannot do otherwise than acknowledge itself confronting something, a knowledge of whose attributes it cannot

grasp; an intelligence and volition that are universal and in whose presence the mind bows in awe.

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### MISCELLANY.

A new kind of wire is used for aerial telegraphs, and is more durable, lighter and better adapted in many ways than the ordinary wire. It is the silico copper wire.

H. Baillon has just published a French work on the order *Compositæ*. This great order having 780 genera has been simplified by the consolidation of the genera to 403, and Dr. Gray thinks it can yet be improved. —*Botanical Gazette*.

A new compound, lately coming into pretty general use in some of the arts, is made by adding carbonic acid to baric-peroxide in the presence of a quantity of water. It is called hydrogen peroxide, and its formula ( $H_2O_2$ ) shows that its molecule contains an atom of oxygen more than a molecule of water contains. Its use therefore could hardly bring about disastrous results as far as the decomposition of the body could give off harmful elements is concerned. The bleaching action of what was supposed to be ozone, is, at any rate, partly due to this hydrogen peroxide then existing in the ozone in a state of diffusion. It is an excellent thing to clean discolored paintings with, and will bleach hair, silk and ostrich feathers as well as bones and ivory, almost perfectly white. It is difficult to make, and harder to keep, but in its use only a very dilute solution is required, probably one drop to fifty of water is a strong enough solution.

To undertake to lay out a plan for the exact method of ventilating every house would be an endless and tedious task. But in any particular case, especially where the advantages are great and the facilities are manifold, and the omission of the observance of the laws of health immediately causes the surroundings to become repulsive, especially to the olfactory sense, it ought not to humble any one, no matter what position in life he may attain, to exert himself enough to promote the circulation, in seeing to the proper ventilation of the room which he has in charge. Especially should

rooms having frequent recitations in them be well ventilated by keeping some of the windows partly open and by such other means as are possible for keeping an abundant supply of air. In a good many cases, and I think most generally, it is a lack of care that causes disease to be incorporated rather than the impossibility of availing ourselves of a well regulated, humanlike dwelling place. It is certainly a lack of care that a room with abundant means of getting good draughts of fresh air should, in the summer, be so close that a person unaccustomed to such an atmosphere could scarcely breathe when entering the room. A room 50x30 feet with eleven large windows advantageously placed, the room itself in the fourth story where the breezes could strike it fairest of all, ought certainly to be a good, comfortable and pleasant place for recitations where there are only four or five classes per day. But when a recitation room is kept entirely closed for weeks, except a small door opening into another room to admit the classes, and the whole air becomes tainted with the decomposing organic material from the breath and from alcoholic specimens of the animal kingdom, until the very dust on the floor would make a good soil on which to grow all sorts of cryptogams, the time has come for some one to remonstrate. Gentle hints seem no longer available in this age, and nought but "plain talk," emphasized and well founded can accomplish the desired end.

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Hunting cyclones is a very amusing as well as interesting pass time; a company of four, consisting of the proctor, two seniors, and one other senior, went down five miles south of Ames to look at the one that passed through that vicinity recently; they saw two dead horses lying in the fields a short distance from the road; the proctor and the two seniors went over to investigate, and while they were proposing various theories as to the distance they must have blown (the nearest barn being a mile away) and the proctor was nipping his nasal extremity firmly between the index finger and thumb and thinking of the fish geranium in his mother's bay-window at home that smelt so sweetly, the owner of the team was telling the other senior about the horses falling through the bridge and killing themselves, two weeks before.

# THE AURORA.

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## LITERARY SOCIETIES

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Iowa State Agricultural College.

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THE AURORA, AMES, IOWA.

PRES. WELCH has been called upon by United States Commissioner Loring to visit the different countries of Europe in the interest of Agricultural colleges. We understand that the President is requested to make full reports concerning their management, their method of giving instructions, and the extent of experiments and investigations. It was with no small degree of pride that we learned of the honor paid President Welch. And with pleasure we say that the public has secured the services of one who is thoroughly prepared to do this work. If the desire is to have a clear and concise statement of the manner of management and the workings of the colleges and agricultural interests of the old world, Commissioner Loring could hardly have called upon an abler man. Arrangements have been made for the President to leave us about the first of September, and we believe he will not return until sometime next March. We will be sorry to have him absent

for so long a time, but hope his work will be to him a source of pleasure. His work connected with this college has been, though heavy, done patiently and with much skill. He has proven to the public that he possesses marked executive ability, and is undoubtedly the man for the position he now occupies. It is true we will miss the President, but we hope that this pleasant duty will afford an opportunity of taking a much needed rest, and that the rest will enable him to regain much of his former strength.

The Board of Trustees have lately made arrangements for the work on the new buildings to begin at once. We hope to see them completed as soon as possible. Two residences for Professors, a large boarding cottage and the large and roomy engineering hall; these, if built properly, and no doubt they will be, will add much to the already beautiful college grounds. The dwelling houses will make it much more convenient for Profs. Wynn and Bessey, for whom they are intended, to do their work. The cottage will serve to accommodate about fifty more students and this we all know is much needed; in fact, the crowded condition of the institution last term is the only evidence anyone could ask on that subject. And last, but by no means least, comes the engineers hall. This will furnish the engineering departments the room they have so long needed. They will soon be enabled to do more work with greater ease. Another pleasing feature is that the chemical and physical departments will, by the change, have more room, and as a consequence, less difficulty in performing the usual amount of work.

Last year there were a few students among us who seemed to take a certain amount of pride in conducting themselves in such a manner that they would attract attention during lectures and other public exercises in the Chapel. Many were congratulating themselves that there was no such element in the College now. In fact, no fault can be found up to the evening the Christian Association gave us the privilege of attending a lecture. On that evening a number of students succeeded in making themselves very disagreeable to say the least by getting together in the chapel and boisterously

cheering every person who entered the room. If a number of them would think of the length of time they have been in the institution, if they would think that people have a right to expect them to act in a proper manner and that they have no right to disturb the lecturer or those who wish to follow his line of thought, by continuing to whisper, eat candy and play the child in general, it certainly would not occur again. We hope they will conclude that such actions are out of place, uncalled for and ungentlemanly.

We are not prepared to say who furnished the *Register* with an article published under the head of "Iowa Colleges" concerning this institution. If we were called upon to decide whether the writer intended to give the intentions of the faculty during the short vacation or to review the exhibition of the junior class, we could speak with no degree of certainty. As to the former we have nothing to say only that we hope they are having a pleasant time; but as to the latter we would like to ask a question. Was it intended for a criticism or for a review of the exercises given by the class? If the intention was to criticise it certainly was not done according to the merits of the several productions, if the judgment of the large audience amounts to any thing. While on the other hand we do not see why, if the correspondent wished to furnish an article on the exercises, it could not have been in the form of a review, from which the reader could get at least a small amount of satisfaction. We are led to believe, by the number of times the terms "another sermon," "preacher like," "oh so solemn" and several others, are inserted, that our reporter is very well acquainted with the different modes that many ministers have of presenting their thoughts, or else is really prejudiced against them as a class. If such is not the case we will take a charitable view of the article and conclude that owing to great haste the writer failed to do justice to the occasion.

The military companies have been drilling during the past term with no small amount of interest. The Gen. takes pride in seeing the "boys" out on the parade grounds, ready

and willing to obey every command. The exercises in this line, when taken properly, certainly add much to the carriage of the student and are conducive to his health. We are fortunate to have Gen. Geddes, so able an instructor in this department, for he makes it one of the pleasant features of the College.

Some time since Prof. Budd started on a trip to Europe and Asia. He is going to devote his attention to the different kinds of fruit trees in certain localities in those countries. His object is to furnish information concerning plants and trees of which the people in this section of country know, at least but very little. The Professor will undoubtedly gather together much information that will prove beneficial to the citizens of Iowa and adjoining states.

THERE were a number of the professors representing the agricultural departments of the Industrial Colleges in the Western States, at our institution, a few days ago. They had some important business to transact and this being done they manifested much interest in the College and its mode of working. We were glad they were able to express themselves so highly in favor of the college and its work. After spending several days on the grounds, then in company with Professors Knapp and Thomson and several others, took a trip up to Dakota, in order, we suppose, not only to have an enjoyable trip, but also to see the so-called garden, which we so often read of as being in that region of country. They returned with glowing accounts of the many interesting things they saw. From the reports we conclude that the country is beautiful and pleasant, the people characterized by push and energy and withall a very desirable place to locate. We are unable however to give any information concerning the remarkable growth of the reports. When the subject of cyclones were discussed by the students so much, some time ago, we thought they had stretched their rhetoric to the fullest extent. But since our friends returned from their excursion, we have concluded that there is nothing which has so great a tendency to cause one to exert their descriptive powers regardless of past experiences and future hopes as a so-called visit to Dakota.

## LOCALS.

—Hot!  
 —Finals.  
 —Measles!  
 —Cyclones!  
 —Company.  
 —Get over?  
 —Junior Ex.  
 —Anxious faces.  
 —Examinations!  
 —Denunciations!  
 —Procrastinations!  
 —And still it rains!  
 —Excommunications!  
 —Did you catch them?  
 —Strawberry shortcake. Oh-h-h!  
 —One less table in the dining room.  
 —Fire crackers and the “crank” fired.  
 —Junior “Ex.” and jubilant Juniors.  
 —Sophomoric sins of sophistic Sophomores  
 —It’s only a dollar; just take what you want.  
 —Freshies’ funny freaks, failings, findings, follies.  
 —Seniors seen sending “Subs.” swimming Sunday.  
 —“Subs.” send “Sophs.” sample sun-flowers.  
 —There will not be many new students next term.  
 —North Hall has recovered from her recent disaster.  
 —Prof. Bessey has gone to Salem to teach the girls how to Botanize.  
 —Ed. Harvey has gone to “Hid a hoe” where he will be an essayist.  
 —Why such anxious faces whenever a cloud appears on the horizon?  
 —Don’t pick the flowers, the pretty flowers, that bloom about the terrace.  
 —The Bachelors have a new revision of their constitution and by-laws.  
 —One of the ladies evidently takes the library for a palace sleeping car.

—North Hall was completed just in time for final examinations in botany.

—Gone! but never mind; there is as good fish in the sea as ever was caught.

—These Illinois and Cedar county tables rather monopolize things, don’t they?

—While the students who went home are having vacation, the new cottagers are having a time.

—The measles have finally made their departure much to the delight of those who never had them.

—Where was the proctor one pleasant evening just as the eleven o’clock bell ceased its remorseless sound? Ah, where?

—“Coming events cast their shadows before.” The Board is coming and it is getting mighty hot these last days of June.

—The question which now stares the Great American Republic in the face is, will the Proctor of the cottage go by Frat—er express.

—McK—— is trying to figure out just how the Christian association got that half dollar out of him; he can not balance the account.

—It seemed like old times to hear Mr. Will McHenry’s violin as one of the pleasant features of the exercises Wednesday evening.

—We notice some young gentleman not naturally inclined to physical labor seem extremely anxious to obtain details in the strawberry bed.

—Shooting matches are a good thing, but we wouldn’t care to have them every day if they bring about such a storm as the last one occasioned.

—Guiteau is gone, and America throws off the habillements of mourning for the martyred dead long enough to rejoice over this victory of justice.

—Who said they would give you “three marks and a dollar” for picking strawberries without permit? Give us the dollar, we don’t need for the marks.

—One couple who entered the chapel Saturday evening were obliged to pay ten cents extra in or to attend the lecture, that is providing—two Nichols make a dime.

—Our late knowledge of the weather has taught us that if we see a storm approaching we must not leave port, and if we get caught out in it we had better run.

—Don't talk to us about the "boy stood on the burning deck, whence all but him had fled," when we have a brave Senior girl who stood by her *Post* until that post has fled.

—We thought they had ice cream, frosted cake, and such "fixin" for supper the last evening of the term, and in our innocence so informed several freshmen. It was a sad mistake.

—Whoop! hurrah! "The amendment has carried." Give us a shake. But still we are not so hard hearted but that we fell sorry for the scientific, the literary, and the chief editors.

The Juniors are justly proud of the fact that theirs is the first-class, every individual member of which passed the Junior term of physics. The average standing of the class in that study for the term is 3.75.

—We suppose those young ladies who remain on the ground during vacation, will enjoy life at the cottage so highly, that they will be loth to relinquish their places to the rightful owners when the time comes.

—The shepherd of the freshman class will have hard work collecting his flock for next term as many of them go home uncertain about their return; it is hard work to control a "measly" lot of students, anyway.

—A new addition is being built to the Cottage consisting of four large rooms, two above and two below; those below will be used for kitchen and sleeping apartment, while those above will be utilized for store-rooms.

—A card from Mr. Porter of the Sophomore class says that he will be with us again at the opening; also Mr. Chatburn of the same class is improving rapidly and will be on hand. This is good news for they are both good students.

—The damp weather seems to have affected the organ rather than the choir this season. That instrument became so hoarse one evening as to absolutely refuse to utter a sound, much to the embarrassment of organist and singers.

—During one examination in zoology, the air was so very oppressive that open doors and windows afforded but little relief. However, the professor gave the prespiring students hope for the future, by remarking that if the weather continued that we'd have a cyclone which would blow the roof off before night.

—Never in the annals of the college have so many startling events occurred as in this year. We seem to have passed through everything but an earthquake; this will probably be the next visitation. Perhaps, though, since Guiteau has received his just reward, the fates will be propitious and we shall begin the fall under brighter prospects.

—For the benefit of the editor in charge of the department we will state that she is *not* responsible for the *poor* condition of the locals this issue; in fact, no one is responsible; they were prepared by a "sub" or a tramp and stuck through a crack in the door of the sanctum of the editor-in-chief while he was having the measles and unable to defend himself.

—It is understood that Miss Reeves is to entertain at her house a while during vacation this summer, several of the old students; we are sorry she did not remain during the time, for it is firmly believed by those who feel themselves capable of speaking on the subject, that she would have made *summer's* vacation much pleasanter had she stayed here.

—Grave Seniors, studious Juniors and important Sophomore had to stand quietly in the back ground one Saturday while the Freshman came to the front and displayed their skill as marksmen. After an all-day's struggle, the prize was finally awarded to Mr. Flannigan of Company B as being the champion "shootist." He wore his laurels gracefully.

#### SONG OF THE CYCLONE.

Ruin stalks around us rampant,  
Chaos claims us for his own,  
Rack and shatter have stewn the alter  
Of our quiet and happy home.

Evil seems to be up and raging,  
Order has fallen below its par,  
Scientists have lost their grip of nature,  
And the elements the rulers are.

## PERSONALS.

'83. We are sorry to learn that Miss Jessie Frater will not return this fall.

Mr. John Gilchrist spent the Sabbath with his many friends at the I. A. C., a short time ago.

Mr. Parke Simmons and Miss Shober, of Clarence, lately paid the College a short visit.

'83. The death of a little niece prevented Miss Colclo from staying for the closing exercises.

Miss Briggs does not expect to return to school again; which our artistic friends will especially regret.

Mr. Scott was taken quite seriously ill, one morning, with a nervous attack; he has now quite recovered.

Miss McNeill will spend her summer vacation with Miss Mabel Young; we predict a pleasant time for both.

The members of class '84 were glad to see one of their old number, Miss Clara Guyer, in their midst for a few days.

The familiar face of Misses Georgia White, Phe Bracken and May Briggs, were seen in the dining room, near the close of the term.

Mrs. Cecile Tinsley came to pay her old friends a visit and attend the Junior "Ex." Her husband joined her Wednesday evening.

J. B. Grant announces that the Grant Smelting Works, burned down at Leadville, will be rebuilt again, either at Denver or Pueblo.

Miss Maud Summers' pleasant face was seen in our midst last week. Her cousin, Maggie Baird, came with her. They were visiting Will.

Miss Garard was with us to attend the closing exercises of the term; she is located at Boone, where she is expounding theology to the Universalists.

S. H. McGavern was suddenly called home on account of his father's illness; he does not expect to return this year, for which the Sophomores grieve; nor are they the only mourners.

To one of our number, Mr. Chatburn, an attack of the measles came near proving rather serious. He had hardly recovered from the above disease when he was taken with a relapse which resulted in lung fever. For a few days his friends were quite alarmed concerning his condition, but youth and good care threw the odds in his favor, and he is now on the high road to recovery. We hope to see him among us again, this fall.

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## ALUMNI.

'80. "Simmie" could not stay away so we have the pleasure of recording him one of our guests.

'82. We regret to say John R. McKim was called home for a few days to attend the funeral of his sister.

'81 W. H. McHenry, after a very successful campaign on the stump for temperance, came up to see us.

'77. A new paper reaches us edited by J. J. J. Fegtly; if we can judge from the sample copy J. J. has a good paper.

'81. "Church" Fortner will not return this fall, but will attend the Chicago Medical when that institution opens in September.

'79. James Shearer is spending vacation at home; he is principal of the La Porte schools where he can be found for another year.

'77. Miss Kate Curtis honored us with her presence. Miss Curtis was one of our brightest students and is one of Iowa's most intelligent ladies.

'78. Miss Emma McHenry called again to see her many friends; Miss Mc's principal occupation is to brighten the home of her father at Des Moines, Iowa.

'79. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Field may be found at Burlington, Iowa. The bride was Miss Annie M. Rowell and we all remember Frank as the "little engineer" of class '79.

'80. J. F. Saylor, who has been principal of the Anita schools, was elected Superintendent of the schools of Red Oak. J. F. has been making some pretty big strides of late.



'82. Mr. E. A. McDonald has gone to Mt. Pleasant to help gather up the fragments of his home, which was the unlucky victim of a cyclone that passed through that place recently.

'79. Miss Florence Brown sends us a friendly note from Astoria, Oregon and encloses two dollars for AURORA, '81 and '82. She wishes the AURORA success and it takes much pleasure in wishing her the same.

'81. Miss Ettie B. Andrews is now living at Sioux City, where we presume if any of the I. A. C. students should call they would find as much welcome and business combined in the aforesaid, as any young lady in Iowa.

'80. Frank Boddy is roaming around hunting the best place to spend vacation; he concluded that this would be a good place to put in a week. One more term at Chicago and Frank will be no more; that is we will then have Dr. Boddy.

'81. If some one will lend us a ladder or a balloon, we will go up and ask "Hop" if he cannot come around and see us when he gets that bank in running order. *Notice!* R. J. Hopkins, banker, Swede Point, Iowa. Money loaned on good security.

'78. MARRIED at Santa Barbara, Cal., June 21st Mr. Chas. Beckwith to Miss Lucy Shepherd of Class '78. All will unite in wishing them a long and happy life and Lucy we are glad to hear that you really did not laugh during the entire ceremony.

'76 G. A. Garard was on hand to attend the Junior "Ex" and see his many friends; we understand he has severed his connection with the Eldora schools; we do not know where he will locate next, but whoever the fortunate parties are that secure his services, they will get one of Iowa's best instructors.

'79. Cyclones are below par; listen here: MARRIED; on Tuesday, June 27, 1882, at the house of the bride's parents, near Boone, Iowa, by the Rev. S. S. Dodd, W. M. Scott, class '79, and Miss Mary D. Wahl; a letter winds up with the following: "Best of wishes for yourselves and AURORA; we return to Larimore, Dakota, the first of next week."

—Those pamphlets containing the prize orations of the state and inter-state contests, since the state organization, are on hand, and can be had by applying at the office of W. D. Wells. Here is a splendid chance for our students to become acquainted with Iowa's college orators, their subjects, &c. The price is very small and every student should have one. Readers of the AURORA can secure this pamphlet by sending stamp and fifty cents.

—The President reminded the students what a funny joke it was for them to get up a dance down town the night of the *Junior Ex*. It gave him "new confidence in the fact" that "we had some real wits in the institution." It was too bad to bring the fun out so early, however, as it seemed to take all the interest out of the dance on the eve. it was to come off, and but very few of the students were there.

—Professor Stalker has left us and without telling why or where he is going; gone one suspects to *Florence* again. We understand the professor is getting uneasy since the Legislature has introduced the plan of building houses for the professors, and he thinks that he should come in some way for his share. If they would only pay his board it would be something and he would be satisfied. He is a thoroughly practical man, and the local department has enough inherited prophecy to venture this prediction that — that — now don't get excited; it is only a venture, and we should not be much surprised if it should happen.

—The annual and much talked of exhibition of the Junior class was held in the chappel on the evening of the 28th ult., and another success is recorded with the many that have preceded it. The principal distinguishing feature of this exhibition from all others was the decorations, and no one, who saw for themselves, can doubt the aesthetic taste of the class. The fountain gushing forth in a crystal stream and falling back in myriads of particles of silver spray, served well to remind Class '83, on this, the eve of the day of victory for the pure and sparkling fluid, that cold water holds no little influence over our greatest enterprises in life.